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Period 5

The Crucible- Anticipation/ Reaction Guide

Confessing to a crime you didn’t commit in order to avoid punishment is wise.

If there is one thing that defines your position and importance in society, that is your reputation. A person’s reputation builds up throughout the course of their lives, and it is mainly based upon society’s judgment. Each individual is judged according to their actions and behaviors whether they are deemed wrong or correct. It may take long years to obtain a valuable reputation; however, a reckless mistake could ruin it in a second. For example, a pastor could be revered by society for resembling a holy figure, yet the minute he confesses to a crime such as robbery or maybe even murder, he will automatically be seen with disdain and neglected by the community. Having this said, confessing to a crime you have not committed is most definitely not a wise method of avoiding punishment. Yes, making such confession could relieve you from facing punishment in the short run, but it will mark with shame the rest of your life. Subsequently, you will become a social outcast. Very few people will approach you, including your own family; after all, no one likes being associated with bad influences, since that will sully their name as well. Credibility and honor are two very valuable aspects of each person. If an individual happens to be accused of a crime unjustly, the wise choice would be proving their innocence. Not only will it save them from punishment, but also from obtaining a shameful reputation. On the other hand, if you happen to be taking blame in order to cover up from someone else you know, then let them face the consequences. Everyone should be held responsible when it comes to making decisions and facing the consequences of those decisions, regardless if they have good or bad outcomes. No one should be penalized for an act they did not commit. Whether you are covering up for someone else or simply confessing to a crime you did not commit thinking you won’t be able to prove your innocence, both methods would be considered lying. Lying always leads to no good and in order to cover up that lie you would have to continuously lie, getting yourself into greater trouble. Lying is and will always be morally incorrect and unappreciated. If you think about it, what are the chances of you trusting someone who has previously lied to you? Those would be very minimal. That would be society’s same reaction if they happen to find out that you lied about committing the crime you are being accused of. Furthermore, the shorter path may, after all, not be the easiest one. Confessing to this uncommitted act will get the individual out of trouble in the short run; however, the long term consequences will be far more penalizing.

The difference between right and wrong is clear.

The difference between right and wrong could be quite ambiguous. It is very dependent on the morals and values we’ve been taught over the years, along with environmental factors, culture, and the society we live in. For an instance, there is the controversial topic of abortion. Some believe having an abortion is the choice to make if the mother’s life is in danger, while others believe abortion is wrong, no matter the circumstances given, and should in fact be made entirely illegal. As said with the given example, what one person may deem right, another may consider wrong. The difference between right and wrong has been a major ethical dilemma for many years. Right or wrong, it is subject to each individual’s opinion. We make our decisions based on our own judgment, what we have been previously taught, and accordingly to society’s standards of right or wrong. Another example, lying, is also dealt with differently by each person. There are those who see lying as the easy way out in certain circumstances, while others rather believe that a lie will always be a lie, regardless. Then, there are the “big” lies and the “small, pious” lies. As children, we are taught many principles, one being honesty. As much as parents attempt setting the correct example for their child, there are those parents who lie themselves. As they teach their children the importance of honesty, they may be secretly hiding large, significant lies. While some parents acknowledge that they are doing wrong in lying, others believe it is correct in specific occasions, one being that perhaps the child is adopted. Now making the decision of speaking the truth on such occasion could be quite tormenting. Parents want the best for their children, and this uncomforting truth could potentially cause great suffering in the child. Keeping the well-being of their children in mind, parents may be greatly tempted to lie. It may initially seem the correct decision; however, in the long run the resentment will not be worth it. Another common example is the disputable act of murder. Of course, the first thing that comes to mind is that it is unacceptable, and that is because it is seen wrong in most cultures. However, you would have to ask yourself, is it that wrong if it was done in self-defense? What would you have done in such situation? These are the times in which conflict arouses and it becomes truly difficult to categorize the situation as right or wrong. It is a matter of morals and believes we have adapted over the years by personal experience and religious influences. Overall, distinguishing the boundaries between what is correct and what is not, is mainly subject to personal opinion.

It is better to die for what you believe in rather than lie to save your life.

Unfortunately, honesty lacks in today’s society. Each and every day people lie to avoid getting into trouble. Subsequently, they continuously lie in order to cover up previous lies, which is an act of immorality. On the other hand, if you die supporting your beliefs, you would be known as a martyr; a person who sacrifices something of great value and especially life itself for the sake of principle. Personally, I would rather die standing up for my beliefs, rather than live in remorse and guilt for having lied.